

**MUCH OIL PRODUCED  
ON FEDERAL TRACTS**

(By the Associated Press)  
Washington, March 24.—Nearly nine million barrels of oil were produced on government owned lands in 1921, resulting in more than \$2,000,000 being paid into the United States treasury as royalties, according to the annual report of A. W. Ambrose, chief petroleum technologist of the bureau of mines.

The government receives royalties on all petroleum and natural gas and their products sold from government lands. The minimum oil royalty rate of 5 per cent is that for land leased as a reward for discovery. Most of the leases have been awarded, it was said, under a sliding scale of royalties ranging from 12 1-2 to 16 2-3 per cent. The rate on casing head gasoline is 16 2-3 per cent of the value of the gasoline extracted from the gas produced and sold.

More than 6,000 permits for prospecting for oil and gas have been issued by the general land officer, the report stated, while 267 leases were said to have been granted for producing oil and gas properties. Most of the oil produced on government lands is credited to Wyoming, California, Montana and Louisiana. Natural gas comes from Wyoming and California, and casinghead gasoline from Wyoming and California.

**CROWD SURROUNDS  
GALLOWS—RESPITE**

(By the Associated Press)  
Centerville, Ala., March 24.—Huge crowds of people assembled here this morning to witness the hanging of Nellie Nestor, negress, convicted and sentenced to die for the murder of her husband.

However, a few hours before the time set for execution, attorneys for the negress obtained an order granting an appeal to the supreme court. The Nestor woman, the indictment charged, killed her husband, chopping his body into small pieces and attempted to cremate all the parcels of flesh and bone.

**MERGER ABSORBS  
MANY RAIL LINES**

(By the Associated Press)  
New York, March 24.—Formation of a new railroad system, rivaling the Pennsylvania and the New York Central, was the forecast of Wall street today in interpreting the statement by Newman Erb, president of the Ann Arbor Railroad Company, in regard to the merger of the Ann Arbor and Pere Marquette lines.

It is predicted that the combination will also take in the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, the New York, Chicago & St. Louis and the Toledo, St. Louis and Western.

MRS. W. E. GENTRY.

The body of Mrs. Bessie Gentry, aged 34, wife of W. E. Gentry, who died at her home in the Anderson Addition of this city yesterday morning, was taken yesterday afternoon to Quitman, where the funeral was held today. Mrs. Gentry succumbed to a long illness of tuberculosis. She is survived by her husband and four children.

Center Link lodge No. 75, I. O. O. F., will meet tonight at 7:30 o'clock for work in the initiatory and first degrees.

**FAULKNER'S CROP  
SMALLEST GROWN**

**TOTAL IS 11,508 BALES**

Cotton Yield in 1921 was About Half that of Preceding Year, According to Census Figures.

The smallest crop of cotton produced since the government began gathering ginning figures, and possibly the smallest since the county was organized in 1873, was produced in Faulkner county last year, according to a report of the census bureau released for publication today.

The report shows a total ginning of 11,508 bales, almost exactly one-half that of the preceding year, which was 22,749 bales, and but little more than half the average of 12 preceding years, 1909 to 1920, inclusive, which was 19,756 bales. The largest crop on record was that of 1913, 25,306 bales, and the smallest crop until last year was that of 1918, 14,342 bales.

A sharp reduction of acreage last year, the almost total disuse of commercial fertilizer and the unprecedented infestation of boll weevil are responsible for the record low yield in the county.

By crop years the total number of bales ginned in Faulkner county for the past 13 crops has been as follows: 1909, 17,906 bales; 1910, 19,539 bales; 1911, 18,029 bales; 1912, 20,685 bales; 1913, 25,306 bales; 1914, 23,068 bales; 1915, 17,906 bales; 1916, 21,792 bales; 1917, 19,391 bales; 1918, 14,342 bales; 1919, 16,533 bales; 1920, 22,749 bales; 1921, 11,508 bales.

In contrast with Faulkner, a few counties produced bumper crops of cotton last year. Mississippi county set a record for all time for any Arkansas county by ginning 77,765 bales, 15,000 more than the preceding year's crop. Crittenden, also in north-east Arkansas, was second with 41,631 bales, although that county in 1920 ginned 46,611 bales. Jefferson county, with 35,824 bales, was third. Besides Mississippi only two other counties, Chicot and Craighead, produced greater cotton crops in 1921 than in 1920. The state as a whole ginned 787,974 bales against 1,182,010 the preceding year.

Some counties, however, show an even greater proportionate drop in cotton yield than Faulkner. Among these are the following, the first figure being the 1921 and the second the 1920 yield: Baxter, 1,126, 3,512; Calhoun, 3,003, 7,708; Clark, 5,182, 12,312; Cleburne, 2,936, 7,524; Crawford, 11,674, 25,441; Fulton, 1,907, 4,393; Garland, 745, 3,686; Hempstead, 6,317, 17,983; Hot Springs, 1,892, 5,603; Johnson, 9,746, 21,070; Logan, 14,580, 32,148; Miller, 5,731, 12,316; Nevada, 4,686, 12,184; Perry, 3,252, 7,334; Scott, 5,818, 14,000; Searcy, 919, 1,858; Sebastian, 9,113, 23,167; Sevier, 1,433, 6,295; Stone, 859, 1,840; Union, 5,700, 12,301; Van Buren, 2,902, 6,014.

**IMPROVISES WHEEL  
FOR ROULETTE GAME**

(By the Associated Press)  
Key West, Fla., March 24.—Maybe they've stopped making roulette wheels, or perhaps Manuel Gonzalez, operator of a coffee shop here, didn't have a catalog showing where one might be obtained.

Anyway, such inconveniences didn't bother Manuel when he decided to install one in the rear of his place recently. Officers raided the shop, seized the layout and upon examination discovered the wheel was home made,

manufactured from a disc graphophone record. The record had been painted, had numbers from 1 to 35, and officials who scrapped some of the paint away discovered it was originally a vocal rendition of "There's No Place Like Home."

Gonzalez failed to tell the court whether the title of the hidden song was a warning to those who bucked the wheel or whether he regarded it as a lucky omen for the "house."

**FLOOD SUBMERGES  
TOWN; FOUR DROWN**

(By the Associated Press)  
Burlington, Kans., March 24.—With four known dead and property damage estimated at \$750,000, Burlington today was recovering from the cloud burst, which last night flooded Rock Creek and swept into the city without warning.

Only one body has been recovered from the submerged area.

**ARRAIGNED 175 TIMES  
FOR REVENGEFUL ACTS**

Louisville Man, "Sore" at Fancied Injustice by Government, Pursues Odd Feud.

(By the Associated Press)  
Louisville, Ky., March 24.—A strange feud with the government that had lasted many years was ended here recently by the death of Peter Bitzer, the chief factor in this unique drama of life. Bitzer was arrested on an average of every 152nd day of his life of 71 years. He openly violated the law to avenge a fancied wrong by the United States government almost half a century ago, and not for the profit there was in it, according to his friends. It is said that, on the contrary, Bitzer persisted in his illegal acts although they were slowly depleting his small fortune, and that while arrested nearly 175 times for violating the prohibition law, he was always a total abstainer.

When a young contractor just starting out in life, he was security for another contractor on a piece of government work in the Louisville harbor. A flood on the Ohio river swept away the work, so the story goes, and Bitzer was held to his bond. This was said to have ruined him financially. Legal battles over the case for years ended only in disappointment for Peter and he is said never to have become reconciled to the justice of the government's action.

Bitzer's first effort to retaliate came when he attempted to evade the tax on oleomargarine. For this offense he served a year in prison. When national prohibition came into being, Bitzer repeatedly violated the law, it is alleged. He was arrested more than 175 times, frequently convicted, but generally escaping with a fine. He, however, served several short prison sentences, but always in cells which he had fitted with modern conveniences.

His meals were brought into the prison to him.

Despite the many conflicts he had with the police, Bitzer is said to have never become angered at them. The last time his property was raided, several months ago, and a large stock of whiskey seized, Peter is quoted as having called "come back again, boys," as the officers departed.

Following his litigation with the government, he is said to have preferred cash transactions always and seldom issued a check, although his business was voluminous at times.

**EFFORT TO BLOCK  
HARTJE AMENDMENT**

**SEEK COURT INJUNCTION**

Little Rock Attorneys File Suit to Prevent Secretary Hopper from Certifying Proposed Amendment.

Former State Senator George F. Hartje, author of the Hartje amendment and R. W. Robins of this city, who assisted in its preparation, will probably appear with Attorney General J. S. Utley in the legal fight over the certification of the amendment, following the filing of an injunction suit against Secretary of the State Ira Hopper by J. F. Loughborough on behalf of a group of Little Rock attorneys late yesterday.

Secretary Hopper said over the long-distance telephone this afternoon that he had not yet been served with a summons in the injunction suit and had not been informed as to when it would be set for trial. Unless restrained by an order of court from doing so, he said, he expected to send out to newspapers in each county copies for the proposed amendment for publication next week. The law requires constitutional amendments to be published weekly for six months before the general election. As the new date for the biennial election is October 3, the amendment will have to be published the first week in April.

The Hartje amendment, which Governor McRae attempted to veto, provides for the taxation of personal property as well as real estate by improvement districts. Under the present constitutional provisions all the cost of improvements must be borne by the land, and personal property cannot be assessed for this purpose. A person may possess great wealth in money, merchandise, credits, etc., and if he owns no land he cannot be taxed for improvements under the present law.

Attorney General Utley and Secretary of State Hopper hold that the veto power of the governor does not extend to proposed constitutional amendments. Following the veto, another amendment, prohibiting the passage of local legislation, was initiated. If the Hartje amendment fails to be certified, the latter could be voted upon, as the constitution prohibits the submission of more than three amendments at any election.

**FARM LOAN ASS'N  
MEETING SATURDAY**

Members of the Faulkner County Federal Farm Loan Association will meet in the Commercial Club rooms tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock in another effort to elect a board of directors to fill the places of those whose election last January was held invalid for lack of a quorum.

A meeting was held on March 4 for the same purpose, but it was found that a quorum was still lacking. The by-laws of the organization require a majority of the voting stock to be represented. Each stockholder has one vote for each \$100 borrowed from the Federal Land Bank, with the proviso that no one may cast more than 20 votes.

MRS. W. T. PIERCEY.

Mrs. Sarah C. Piercey, 76, widow of the late W. T. Piercey of Conway, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. T. C. Dallas, at Konawa, Okla., at 5 o'clock this morning after an illness of pneumonia, according to a message received here. The body will be brought to Conway for burial and the funeral will be held Sunday, the exact arrangements to be announced later.

Mrs. Piercey was born in Madison county, Tenn., May 19, 1845. She was married to Mr. Piercey May 5, 1867, and came with him to Faulkner county in 1880, locating near Vilonia, where they resided until their removal to Conway. Since Mr. Piercey's death in November, 1920, she has been making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Dallas. Mrs. Piercey was a woman who was loved by all who knew her, and her death will be deeply mourned. She was a member of the Primitive Baptist church.

Three sons and two daughters survive Mrs. Piercey. They are J. R. Piercey of Conway, C. R. Piercey of Little Rock and C. E. Piercey of Pine Bluff; Mrs. Frank Stewart of Little Rock and Mrs. T. C. Dallas of Konawa.

APPOINTED DELEGATE.

Supt. R. E. Womack of the Conway public schools has been appointed a delegate to the Southern Illiteracy Conference, to be held at Birmingham, Ala., April 11 and 12. Delegates from 12 states will attend the conference. Mr. Womack said he was planning to attend if he could arrange to be absent from his work at that time.

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**SPECIAL COSTUMING  
FOR CENTRAL COMEDY**

Members of the Central College Dramatic Club, appearing Monday night in the comedy, "The Private Secretary," will have special costumes from a well known Philadelphia firm which makes a specialty of equipment for amateur plays. Final rehearsals are being held at the College this week. Those fortunate enough to witness a part of the comedy pronounce it one of the very best seen here, and predict a decided success when presented to the public.

Young ladies appearing in the cast gave their original and clever advertising "skit" this morning at the chapel service at the State Normal, it being as well received as yesterday at the Rotary Club luncheon.

**HIGH VS. POTTSVILLE  
GAME HERE TOMORROW**

Conway and Pottsville high schools, which played this afternoon on the high school campus, will stage the second of their series tomorrow afternoon on Russell field at Hendrix. Their game will be called at 2:30.

MARCUS HILL.

We have had lots of rain and the farmers are getting a late start with their crops. Some have just finished sowing oats and some still aim to sow yet.

We had the hardest rain of the season Saturday night. It was almost like a cloudburst.

Rev. Glover was here Saturday to fill his regular appointment, but owing to the inclement weather there were but a few out, so he did not preach. On account of sickness in his family he returned home Saturday afternoon and the rains Saturday night swelled the Cadron until he could not get back Sunday. Rev. D. L. Thompson filled the stand at 11 o'clock and delivered a good sermon.

Sunday school was well attended Sunday with fairly good lessons.

We certainly had a gale of March winds Sunday.

We are glad to report "Uncle" Jess Hoggard as being able to be out at church Sunday. We hope his health will continue to improve.

We are requested to say John Ward wanted to hitch his mule in front of Mr. Spencer's gate Sunday but the Cadron was too full to cross.

BAILEY CHAPEL.

Several of us made use of the fine weather last week, planting garden and potatoes.

Bob Smith of Holland and Miss Vera Morris of this place were married Sunday. We wish for them many happy days.

"Uncle" Jim Henderson is improving, after a severe attack of pneumonia.

Jesse Brady and wife of Naylor were guests at J. W. Lipscomb's last week.

T. J., the infant of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Bailey, is numbered with the sick.

Cadron Valley school district is up with Needs Creek and Wooster, out of debt.

JOHN R. MATTHEWS.

John R. Matthews, aged 62, a former citizen of Faulkner county, died at his home near England yesterday, according to messages received here. The body was brought to Conway and burial will be had at Marcus Hill cemetery.

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